

8201 Oakleigh Road
Baltimore, MD 21234
December 25, 1987

Dear Mom and Dad,

It is a gray day but mild with the high expected in the 50's. We went out for a short run this morning and then had some of the banana bread which I made last week. We have been eating very well lately. On Wednesday Vickie made a squash soup accompanied by toasts with melted Italian cheese. Then for Christmas Eve she had marinated scallops with peppers. Earlier she had made Italian cookies so we have been enjoying those as well. I made a fruit salad for the office luncheon on Wednesday and we have been finishing it up. Finally, today we are making crepes and a pork roast from the Italian cookbook.

After breakfast the cat decided to help us open your presents by tearing the wrapping and pulling the ribbon away with his teeth. We were both quite surprised to see very elegant and obviously time-consuming work. The scarves look so professional right down to the label. We will enjoy these in New York and on the many frigid windy days during the next three months. Thank you very much!

Having 11 days away from the office is hard to adjust to. There are so many things I want to do that I don't know where to start. I am doing a lot of reading and of course spending a good deal of time on the computer with my year-end finances and other programs. We are taking the train to New York on Monday and will return on New Year's Eve. The one scheduled event is the Opera, "Tales of Hoffman" at the Metropolitan Opera on Wednesday night. This is Vickie's birthday celebration and there is no place she would rather be! We will visit as many museums as we can and go out to some good restaurants.

The Saturday after New Year's we are going out to dinner in Washington with the Sanchez' and Wilsons. As I told you, the Sanchez' are moving to Brussels later in January. They are selling their impressive house, putting their furniture in storage, and moving into a three-bedroom apartment. We would both rather live here right now and take occasional trips to Europe. We will stay over night in Washington because the next day we are seeing two Gilbert & Sullivan productions at the Kennedy Center. The first is "Ruddigore"; one of the series of eight Washington Opera productions. This is in the afternoon. Then in the evening we are seeing "H.M.S. Pinafore". So it will be a busy weekend.

I hope that everyone has a good time this week and I will call you again soon.

Love,

Jim & Vickie